

MINUTES AND REPORT

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MEETING OF COUNCIL

CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

held at 225 Swanston Street, Melbourne on Monday, 17th January 1983 commencing 4 p.m.

1. PRESENT

Mr. J. N. Black	Chairman
Mr. A. Gill	
Mr. E. J. Long	
Mr. B. H. Macintosh	
Mr. J. Mitchell	
Mr. M. Rundle	
Mr. G. J. Simm	
Mr. O. J. Slattery	
Mr. W. W. Rawlinson	Executive Officer

In attendance:

Mr. B. Greer	Employment Co-operative Development Adviser
Ms. A. Philipp	Observer

Apologies for Absence received from:

Mr. A. Dash
Mr. J. Rigby

2. GREETINGS

- The Chairman opened the first Council meeting of 1983 by extending seasonal greetings to all present.

3. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held 15th November 1982, having been circulated to all members of Council, were received and, subject to correction of typing error in Minute 4.iv by amending "Malvern Start" to "Malvern Star", were confirmed as a correct record of that meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.i Minute 2 - refer Minute 10.ii.i of this meeting.

4.ii Minute 3.i - Directors' Manuals

Enquiry made of Co-operative Federations N.S.W. and W.A. on current situation in those States regarding current availability of such manuals and/or co-ordination of development of a joint production of such manuals.

4.iii Minute 3.iv Financial Institutions Duty Legislation

Council noted background paper and draft Bill received from the Treasurer before enactment of the legislation. Council noted the Act as subsequently passed by Parliament provides for exemption from the Act of the central banking scheme of the Victorian Credit Co-operative Association.

Council directed

*That after incorporation of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd. formalities have been completed and progress is advanced towards establishment of a Federation Central Banking Scheme then application be made for exemption from provisions of the Act for such a Federation service.*

4.iv Minute 4.i Warrnambool Co-operative Society

This member has paid the approved amount of \$1,000 application fee for the current year.

4.v Minute 10.ii Employment Co-operative Members representation on M.E.A.T. Funding Committee

A meeting of Employment Co-operatives held 6th December requested a change in representation of that group on the Funding Committee. The Ministry has agreed to any 3 of 5 nominees submitted to the Ministry to represent Employment Co-operatives on the Funding Committee in addition to the Executive Officer, Co-operative Federation of Victoria.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.i From Trade Practices Commission

regarding unqualified use of "no cash refund" signs by stores

Council directed

*this advice be circulated to members.*

5.ii From Ibis Milk Products

advising of problems in Dairy Industry caused by final

responsibility for approval of levy increases in Dairy Industry Stabilisation Scheme being that of Commonwealth Minister of Finance rather than Minister for Primary Industry.

Council directed

*True facts and reasons for this situation be ascertained and, if the claim can be substantiated then reference be made to C.F.A. for a submission to the Federal Government on the relationship of Co-operative membership and Public Office.*

5.iii To and from Mr. Eric Rowley, Chairman, H.I.O.V.  
on award of M.B.E. in New Year Honours.

Noted.

6. FINANCE

A statement of Income and Expenditure from 1.7.82 to 31.12.82 with estimated Balance Sheet as at 31.12.82 was submitted to the meeting, discussed and received.

7. INCORPORATION OF THE FEDERATION

The Registrar, in accordance with Section 49(2) of the Co-operation Act 1981, requested confirmation that 5 proposed Co-operative Company members and one Co-operative Permanent Building Society are of a substantially Co-operative character relating to

Voting rights of members;

Equal ranking of shares on winding up;

Directors to be members and be elected by members;

Co-operative Taxation status

to enable the application for incorporation to be processed.

A study of the Memoranda and Articles of Association of 4 Co-operative Company Members and the Co-operative Permanent Building Society indicate satisfactory evidence can be provided to meet the Registrar's request.

Council directed

*Pending further discussion with the Co-operative whose constitution fails to meet the Registrar's requirements its membership of the proposed incorporated Federation be deferred. Action for incorporation should proceed forthwith with the remaining 4 Co-operative Companies and the Co-operative Permanent Building Society in membership.*

8. PROMOTIONAL LITERATURE

Authority was sought for deferment of action on development of professionally produced promotional literature for the Federation pending discussion in the Co-operative Societies Advisory Council February meeting related to Co-operative bona fides of Community Advancement Groups using a Co-operative structure simply to obtain financial benefits from Co-operative legislation.

Council

*commended the results of efforts of Community Advancement Groups to improve their communities by Co-operative effort and agreed to defer action until report received on Advisory Council decisions on the matter.*

9. 1983 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Council agreed

*The 1983 Conference of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria be held on 9th August 1983 in the Yarra Room, Olympic Park.*

*That an offer be made to the Co-operative Federation of Australia for a national conference/seminar/workshop to be held at the same venue on 10th August 1983.*

*That an evening social function be held on 9th August 1983.*

Suggested topics for coverage in the Annual Conference were -

Benefits to be obtained - from diversification of Co-operative business

- from increased co-operation amongst Co-operatives

Meaning to Co-operatives of changes in legislation.

Federation members should be invited to submit suggestions for the Conference programme.

10. REPORTS

10.i Co-operative Societies Advisory Council

Mr. Long reported on the December meeting of the Council attended by himself and Mr. Rawlinson.

10.ii Employment Co-operative Development Programme

10.ii.i Monthly Ministry Report to Council

In response to advice from Deputy Director General, M.E.A.T., that Ministry officers will prepare monthly brief reports for Council a proposal for a standard pro forma report was submitted to the Ministry. Council welcomed this clarification of responsibility in this matter.

10.ii.ii Funding Committee

Appreciation was extended to Mr. Long for his attendance at many meetings of this Committee in the absence on leave of Mr. Rawlinson.

Up to early December, meetings had been concerned with new applications for funding including applications resulting from funded feasibility studies.

Since that date meetings have been concerned with consideration of applications for refunding from existing Co-operatives up to June 1984. One established Co-operative, whose application for refunding was disallowed on the grounds of insufficient progress being made towards viability, was the Brunswick Work Co-operative.

10.ii.iii(a) Programme Evaluation

The Ministry has agreed there should be an evaluation of the programme to date. A Steering Committee has been convened with responsibility to establish terms of reference and appointment of outside evaluator.

(b) Internal Review

The Ministry has also agreed that participants in the Programme should undertake a self-analysis of the Programme. The Council directed

*The Legislative Committee should meet to consider the role of the Federation in the Programme and any related matters and submit its report to Council for input into the Ministry's Review.*

10.ii.iv Relationships - Traditional and New Co-operatives

The Ministry requested the Federation to consider organising a workshop to explore those issues. The Education and Training Unit of the Programme is organising a weekend Conference at Lorne on 11th to 13th February, at which it is anticipated discussion on the topic will be promoted.

10.ii.v Business Advisory Unit

Mr. Greer reported that increases in the Employment Co-operative Development Programme are imposing demands on the services of the Business Adviser and increase in staff will be necessary to adequately meet these demands. In addition the relationship of the Business Advisory Unit and the Education and Training Unit are due for review.

Allocation of funds are now being made from the Programme for the period to June 1984.

Facilities within the present C.F.V. office accommodation are inadequate to provide for any staff increase.

Council directed

*That proposals be submitted to its next meeting to consider the request for increased accommodation area. The proposals to include alternatives for*

- (a) *Re-location of the Business Advisory Unit with the Education and Training Unit leaving C.F.V. in its present location;*
- (b) *re-location of enlarged Business Advisory Unit together with C.F.V. Secretariat;*
- (c) *re-location of Business Advisory Unit, Education and Training Unit and C.F.V. Secretariat in one area.*

10.ii.vi Industrial Democracy Publication

Mr. Greer reported that the Secretary of the Fabian Society, Mr. Race Mathews, Minister of Police has prepared a 15,000 word brochure on Industrial Democracy and seeks Federation assistance in its distribution to members. Council directed

*That after perusal of the document a decision could be made.*

10.ii.vii Taxation of Grant unused at the end of the Financial Year in which provided

Mr. Greer reported that the Ministry has commenced action with the Taxation Department with a view to removing anomalies in this matter.

10.iii Co-operative Federation of Australia

Mr. Slattery reported on a meeting of representatives of the Co-operative Federation of Australia, Co-operative Federation

of New South Wales, Credit Unions and Building Societies held on 10th December. The meeting had noted the legislative inhibitions imposed on Credit Unions and Building Societies regarding interchange of funds with other organisations. The meeting also noted the current situation relating to application of Division 9 of the Taxation Act to Building Societies and recommended that the Co-operative Federation of Australia should review its position in this area.

It was agreed a further meeting should be held within six months.

The Council of the Co-operative Federation of Australia is scheduled to meet in Melbourne on 17th February 1983 with the main items of business

Re-construction of the C.F.A.  
Co-operative Bank project.

10.iv Executive Officer

Mr. Rawlinson reported he has been invited to address the weekend conference of Employment Co-operatives in Lorne in February on the international aspects of Co-operation.

He also reported a meeting of the Co-operatives in Schools Project Committee is scheduled for 18th January to consider advertising for and appointment of a Project Officer to undertake research and produce curriculum in pre Co-operative education for use in schools in 1984.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.i Council agreed that the practice of visiting metropolitan Co-operatives, in conjunction with monthly Council meetings, should be continued in 1983.

Council directed

*A proposal be submitted to the February meeting for a visit to a metropolitan based Community Employment Co-operative at the time of the March meeting.*

11.ii Council agreed members be reminded of information available in the Secretariat on wide-ranging Co-operative matters.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Council was scheduled for Monday, 21st February 1983 commencing 4 p.m. at 225 Swanston Street.

13. CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.10 p.m.